



**Candidate's Full Name:** Simon Richard Lennon

**Ward Standing for:** Gordon Ward

**Authorised Campaign Address:** 754 Pacific Highway, Gordon

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**Qualifications:** BSc / LLB (Syd), MCom (NSW) MBA (Macq) **Day job:** Councillor, consultant

Are you a member of a political party? **YES/NO**

If **YES**, specify Liberal Party

Community/ lobby/ sporting group membership? **YES/NO**

If **YES**, specify .....

Have you endorsed Save Greater Sydney Coalition's election planning principles? **YES/NO**

Have you signed the YIMBY election pledge? **YES/NO**

Do you believe dwelling supply alone will solve the housing shortage and affordability? **YES/NO**  
The housing shortage and affordability crises are the same crisis. The only sustainable means of solving them are to redress their causes. As I have said addressing a council meeting, that includes curtailing the huge growth in demand for housing orchestrated by the federal government.

Do you support Ku-ring-gai Council's legal action against the NSW Government's Transport Orientated Development (TOD) SEPP? **Why or why not?**

Yes. Council is acting upon expert legal advice that its case is sound.

My council meeting speeches and the Sydney Morning Herald articles quoting my speeches lay out some of my reasoning and arguments against the TOD SEPP. The state government's intransigence has left council with no other responsible choice but to take legal action.

The state government has refused to countenance any negotiation over total dwelling numbers. Thus negotiation could only ever have involved Ku-ring-gai Council sacrificing one neighbourhood to save another: Sophie's choice. Without changes to state and federal policies, the other neighbourhood would have been lost soon enough anyway.

Do you support making a new place based LEP to mitigate the adverse impacts of the TOD and Low to Mid-Rise Housing SEPP on Ku-ring-gai? **YES/NO**

Pursuant to a resolution of Council, staff are now working on that issue, especially regarding the TOD SEPP. We need to see the outcome of that work.

Do you support maintaining public Council land for community use? **YES/NO**

That is especially the former Gordon Bowling Club site and the land around East Killara shops.

Do you support listing Ku-ring-gai GeoRegion as a UNESCO GeoRegion? **YES/NO**

Do you support the protection of Ku-ring-gai's Heritage Conservation Areas? **YES/NO**

Do you support the establishment of a Ku-ring-gai Council Environmental Advisory Group?  
**YES/NO**

Do you support natural turf on Ku-ring-gai's sports and playing fields; or the installation of artificial turf? **NATURAL/ARTIFICIAL TURF**

Ideally there would only be natural turf, but if there was a proposal for artificial turf at a specific site then I would consider the evidence, circumstances, and technology at that time. This is an issue where the evidence is constantly accruing and the technology constantly evolving.

### **Expanded Questions:**

*Please keep each answer less than 200 words (longer answers may be cut).*

1. What motivated you to run for office at the Ku-ring-gai local government elections?  
I want my children throughout their lives to enjoy this municipality as I have enjoyed it throughout my life. People's quality of life everywhere depends on greenery, heritage, and space.
2. What is your vision for Ku-ring-gai?  
Polishing it where it needs polishing and adopting useful improvements as they become available, but generally maintaining its overall leafiness, spaciousness, and beauty much as it is now.
3. What life experiences and professional experiences do you bring that will serve in your role as a councillor?  
I have been a councillor through this current term, since December 2021. My father was a longstanding Ku-ring-gai alderman and mayor. He achieved a lot, establishing Bicentennial Park with no cost to ratepayers and the Pymble Town Hall, for example, while averting the development that other local government areas suffered and safeguarding our heritage and natural environment. He engaged rationally and courteously with all councillors (then known as aldermen) and with residents, staff, and everyone else, including state and federal governments. (A federal Labor government provided cornerstone funding for Bicentennial Park.) He taught me what good councillors and mayors should do. As a retired lawyer, I know how to advocate. To change state or federal government policies threatening Ku-ring-gai and the rest of New South Wales and Australia, we cannot simply pass resolutions. We need to debate. We need to persuade people. To win over public opinion, we need rational argument and oratory.
4. What do you see as the key issues facing Ku-ring-gai?  
Over development, currently the infamous TOD SEPP.
5. How do you propose to address those issues if elected?  
I will continue doing what I have done. I will engage, debate, and seek to persuade. We want the TOD SEPP court case to buy us time to change public opinion, which has become far too compliant and unquestioning across the country.
6. How will you ensure community engagement, and participation?  
Talking, listening, and meeting. Rhetoric is a matter of reason but also values and feelings.

7. What do you consider are key issues in your Ward?

Again, over development.

Gordon Ward also has a particular need for parks. We cannot afford a councillor who would revive sales of the former Gordon Bowling Club site and the land around the East Killara shops, both of which I was pleased to have successfully argued before council that we should retain. Local people call the former Pennant Park.

As a theatregoer and knowing that people need culture beyond the mechanics of life, I want to see theatre back at Marian Street and other cultural activities there. Marian Street is not simply a Gordon Ward issue but an opportunity for all of Ku-ring-gai and all of Sydney.

8. Are there any additional comments you wish to add?

To describe any election as the most important that an electorate has faced is a tired cliché, but the state government's current development proposals threaten the appeal of Ku-ring-gai and other areas of New South Wales unlike anything before them. The distinctive character of Ku-ring-gai and its contributions to the character of Sydney are at stake.

There is a wide range of views about development among residents and among the seven candidates in Gordon Ward. I feel that I am well skilled in arguing the case that we need to make to save our suburbs and preserve Ku-ring-gai. Thank you.

**Candidate's Name:** Cr Simon Lennon

**Signature:** 

**Date:** 22 August 2024

I attach my election **photo**.

